

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A disc drive spindle motor assembly comprising:
a cylindrical motor spindle hub having an upwardly extending rim, the cylindrical motor spindle hub mounted to a spindle shaft;
an information storage disc mounted on the cylindrical motor spindle hub; and
an annular disc clamp securing the information storage disc to the cylindrical motor spindle hub, the clamp having an annular web portion with a series of inwardly extending tabs fitted around the ~~motor spindle hub rim contacting an upwardly extending surface of the rim~~ to center the disc clamp on the cylindrical motor spindle hub, the tabs projecting from an inner edge of the web portion toward the rim, wherein each tab has a rounded top edge ~~for reduced contact with~~ such that radial separation between each tab and an upwardly extending surface of the rim when increases as the web portion of the disc clamp is being secured to a radially extending surface of the cylindrical motor spindle hub.
2. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 1 wherein the tabs are located equidistant from each other around the inner edge of the web portion of the disc clamp.
3. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 2 wherein there are three tabs.
4. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 1 wherein the disc clamp is stamped from sheet metal.
5. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 1 wherein the disc clamp has a series of upwardly extending pressure lobes located from a peripherally located ring, the

pressure lobes for spreading the downward force on the information storage disc by the disc clamp.

6. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 1 wherein the web portion and the top surface of the spindle hub each define a series of equidistantly spaced screw holes for receiving a series of screws to secure the disc clamp to the spindle hub, wherein the number of screw holes is equal the number of tabs in the web portion.

7. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 6 wherein the tabs and screw holes in the web portion of the disc clamp are substantially laterally aligned.

8. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner edge of the web portion moves downward and away from the spindle shaft during installation.

9. (Currently Amended) A disc clamp for securing an information storage disc to a motor spindle hub in a disc drive, the disc clamp comprising:

a web portion having an inner edge with a series of equidistantly spaced inwardly extending tabs, each tab having a chamfered top edge; and

a peripheral ring portion for contacting a top surface of an information storage disc, [[:]]

wherein the radial separation between the chamfered top edge of each tab ~~reduces contact with and an upwardly extending surface of~~ the motor spindle hub ~~when the disc clamp secures the information storage disc~~ increases as the web portion is being secured to the motor spindle hub.

10. (Original) The disc clamp of claim 9 wherein the inner edge has three equidistantly spaced tabs.

11. (Original) The disc clamp of claim 9 wherein the disc clamp is stamped from sheet metal.
12. (Original) The disc clamp of claim 9 further comprises a series of upwardly extending pressure lobes peripherally located from the annular ring, the pressure lobes for spreading downward force on the information storage disc during disc clamp installation on the cylindrical hub.
13. (Original) The disc clamp of claim 9 wherein the web portion is substantially parallel to the top surface of the information storage disc.
14. (Original) A disc drive spindle motor assembly comprising:
an information storage disc mounted on a cylindrical hub; and
means for providing a uniform and centered clamping force to a top surface of the information storage disc.
15. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 14 wherein the means is a disc clamp having a web portion with a central aperture lined by an inner edge having a series of inwardly extending alignment tabs equidistantly spaced around the inner edge.
16. (Original) The disc drive spindle motor assembly of claim 15 wherein each alignment tab has a spindle shaft engagement surface and a chamfered edge.